

Message Text

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ORIGIN CU-03

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R 102148Z APR 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USLO PEKING
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL, CH

SUBJECT: AAU TRACK TEAM VISIT TO PRC

REF: PEKING 649

1. AT APRIL 5 MEETING AT PRCLO, AMBASSADOR YOST RAISED QUESTION OF TV CREWS WITH CHINESE. CHINESE CONFIRMED THAT ANY TV CREW WOULD HAVE TO BE INCLUDED WITHIN SIX MEDIA SLOTS. THEY ADDED THAT THEY COULD NOT PROVIDE SERVICE OF CHINESE TV CREWS AND THAT IT WOULD NOT BE FEASIBLE TO SEND IN A TV CREW ON THE CHARTERED FLIGHT IT IS HOPED WILL GO TO PEKING TOWARDS END OF TOUR TO BRING OUT TRACK AND FIELD TEAM.

2. NC INFORMS US THAT THERE WOULD BE NO COMMERCIAL TV INTEREST IN SENDING ONLY TWO TV CREW WITH AAU TEAM. FOR ADEQUATE COVERAGE OF TRACK AND FIELD MEET CREW OF 12 TO 15 NECESSARY, INCLUDING DIRECTOR, SEVERAL SPORTS ANNOUN-
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CERS, AND MINIMUM OF SEVERAL CAMERA AND SOUND

TECHNICIANS. NO NETWORK WOULD PAY TO SEND ONLY TWO MEN. IT IS POSSIBLE, OF COURSE, THAT SOME COVERAGE COULD BE PROVIDED BY ONE OF THE SIX MEDIA REPRESENTATIVES WITH A HAND-HELD CAMERA.

3. NEITHER DORRANCE SMITH NOR ANYONE ELSE FROM ABC HAS APPROACHED NC OR DEPARTMENT YET ABOUT COVERING TRACK AND FIELD TEAM. IF ABC APPROACHES US WE WILL REFER THEM TO AAU AFTER GIVING THEM OUR APPRAISAL OF THE SITUATION AS OUTLINED IN PARAS 1 AND 2. IF ABC CALLS NC LATTER WILL REFER THEM TO AAU.

4. BEGIN FYI. NC TELLS US ABC CHANCES WITH AAU ARE FAR FROM GOOD. AAU FEELS ABC IS MOST "DIFFICULT" OF NETWORKS TO DEAL WITH. FURTHERMORE AAU HAS HAD LONG-STANDING ARRANGEMENT WITH CBS.

5. ALSO IN CONFIDENCE NC REPORTS THAT NEW YORK TIMES MANAGING EDITOR TOLD AAU HE WANTS TO DESIGNATE NYT CORRESPONDENT IN HONG KONG AS TIMES MAN TO COVER TRACK AND FIELD TEAM IN PRC. NC HAS ADVISED AAU TO DISCOURAGE

THIS SINCE PRC HAS CLEARLY SAID MEDIA COVERAGE IS TO BE LIMITED TO SPORTS EVENT ONLY AND NC FEELS THIS SHOULD BE DONE BY SPORTS WRITERS NOT FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS. END FYI.

6. WE SUGGEST USLO MIGHT ASK MFA IF CHINESE WILL BE GIVING TV OR MOVIE COVERAGE TO THESE COMPETITIONS, AND FURTHERMORE WHETHER THEY WOULD BE WILLING TO MAKE THEIR FILMS AVAILABLE TO AMERICAN NETWORKS AND UNDER WHAT CONDITIONS SUCH AS EDITING AND DUBBING. WE HAVE

NO SUCH USER NOW ON HAND AND DO NOT HAVE ANY PARTICULAR ONE IN MIND BUT WE SUSPECT WE WILL RECEIVE INQUIRIES. KISSINGER

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